

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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LETTER TO COMMISSION OFFICE

NO. LTC # 017-2013

TO:

Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM:

Kathie G. Brooks, Interim City Manager

DATE:

January 15, 2013

SUBJECT: City of Miami Beach Red Light Camera Photo Enforcement

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide information on the Red Light Camera Photo Enforcement Program, specifically, the enforcement of Right Turn on Red Light violations.

Since the inception of the Program, on April 15, 2010, approximately 30.8% of the issued Notice of Violations are for Right Turn on Red pursuant to disregarding the "careful and prudent criteria" set by Florida State statute. To issue violations under these criteria, violations would involve excessive speed, failure to yield the right of way to pedestrians in a crosswalk or oncoming vehicles turning left into the intersection.

The table below depicts the percentage of Right Turn on Red Light violations issued:

Fiscal Year	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012
	April 15 to	October 1 to	October 1 to
	September 30, 2010	September 30, 2011	September 30, 2012
Percent of Right			
Turn Violations	23.5%	32.6%	36.5%
Total Revenue Collected	*See Note	\$435,764.62	\$ 290,515.14

<sup>\*</sup>Revenue collected for this period is reflected in FY 2010/2011

On December 4, 2012, the Board of Miami Dade County Commissioners passed a resolution urging municipalities in Miami-Dade County with Red Light Camera Traffic Enforcement programs to not enforce Right Turn on Red Light violations. If the City of Miami Beach were to stop enforcing Right Turn on Red Light Camera violations, this would have a significant negative public safety and financial impact on the program. Although the intent of the Red Light Camera Photo Enforcement Program is to decrease injuries due to traffic crashes, financial sustainability of the program is an important consideration. From a financial standpoint alone, during Fiscal Year 2011/2012 the loss would have been nearly \$21,000.

As indicated in the July 30, 2012 Crash Data at Red Light Camera Traffic Intersection Letter to Commission #197-2012, the number of crashes at red light camera intersections has declined since the implementation of the program. This trend is consistent with the recent Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicle Red Light Camera Program analysis of statewide Red Light Camera Enforcement programs. Eliminating the enforcement of Right Turn on Red Light violations would lessen the intended outcome on driver behavior.

KGB/RAM/MNO/MG